

# Strange Vegetation



Strange Vegetation  
Yevgeniya Kaganovich  
Latex, Plexiglas and  
air compressor  
2011



**VILLA TERRACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM**  
2220 N. Terrace Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53202

**Museum Hours:** Wednesday through Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.  
**Museum Admission:** \$5 Adults • \$3 Seniors, Veterans & Students  
FREE Members, Active Military & Children  
**Information:** (414) 271-3656 • [www.villaterracemuseum.org](http://www.villaterracemuseum.org)

**VILLA TERRACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM**  
JUNE 8 – JULY 24, 2011

## Artist's Statement

*Strange Vegetation* grows an ecological system out of the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum's unique decorative interior. It is a site-specific installation incorporated with the repeated pattern of exotic greenery and floral iron work on the walls around it. Here, a system of physically interconnected and identical plant-like forms project, as bulbous roots, from the floor. Their stalks reach from below painted skirting to the wallpaper above. Over a dozen of these large latex volumes slowly breathe in and out, an inflation and deflation cycle that gradually distorts each form.

*Strange Vegetation* germinates and mutates the wallpaper's images into living and breathing things; where paint and wallpaper meet becomes the ground from which foliage sprouts; and these inflated volumes interweave with one another and the implied life of the cultural institution.

The Villa Terrace is intended to accumulate and preserve the products of human time. *Strange Vegetation*, then, thinks beyond this lifecycle - in Earth time. It is a fantastical organism that uses the museum as a seed, transforming it from space, to habitat, to ecosystem in an imagined future. *Strange Vegetation* suggests that all built environments are (a) vibrant matter with the capacity for their own movement, change and agency over time.

Production Team: Bryan Cera, Erik Darbo, Caitlin Driver, Rachel Keding

Photography: Naomi Shersty

Special thanks to: Mike Bray, Jim Charles, Lucy Derickson, Frankie Flood, Kevin Giese, Joe Grennier, Jennifer Johung, Konstantin Kaganovich, Irina Kordish, Kevin Martin, Martha Monroe and Nicole Ridgway

Materials: latex, Plexiglass, air compressor, arduino prototyping, relays and diodes, solenoid valves, ball valves, servo motors, computer and custom-built software



## About the Artist

Yevgeniya Kaganovich is a Belarus born, Milwaukee, Wisconsin based artist, whose hybrid practice encompasses Jewelry and Metalsmithing, sculpture and installation. Yevgeniya has received a Masters of Fine Arts from the State University of New York at New Paltz and a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Metal/ Jewelry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Yevgeniya has been an active art practitioner since 1992, exhibiting her work nationally and internationally. Her work has received a number of awards and has been published widely. Yevgeniya has worked as a Designer/Goldsmith at Peggie Robinson Designs, Studio of Handcrafted Jewelry in Evanston, Illinois and has taught Metalsmithing at Chicago State University, Chicago, Illinois, and Lill Street Studios, Chicago Illinois. Currently Yevgeniya is an Associate Professor in the Department of Art and Design at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee heading a thriving Jewelry and Metalsmithing Area with a graduate and undergraduate program.



More information at [www.yevgeniyakaganovich.com](http://www.yevgeniyakaganovich.com)